

## REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1-10 and 21-30, of which claims 1, 2 and 4 are independent. Claims 11-20, of which claims 11-15 and 18-20 were withdrawn from consideration, have been cancelled. Dependent claims 21-30, each of which depends ultimately from claim 1, are newly added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

The title has been amended to read --IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS WITH A PLURALITY OF SELECTABLE MODES TO MAINTAIN TEMPERATURE--. Applicants respectfully submit that the title is more descriptive of the claimed subject matter and withdrawal of the objection thereto is respectfully sought.

The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for certain language utilized in the claims. Applicants submit that the objected to language does not appear in the claims as now presented and therefore the objection to the specification on this grounds has been rendered moot.

Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled and therefore the objection to those claims has likewise been rendered moot.

Claims 1-7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stelter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,051,780). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stelter et al. in view of Isobe (JP 2000-75726). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of independent claims 1, 2 and 4, as amended, are directed to an image forming apparatus comprising an image formation unit, a heat fixing rotation member, a first heater for heating the heat fixing rotation member, a pressure rotation member with an elastic layer, a second heater for heating the pressure rotation member and a controller for controlling power supplied to the first and second heater. Each of claims 1, 2 and 4 is characterized in that the apparatus has a plurality of selectable modes including a first and second mode for at least a predetermined period during a non-printing time. Claim 1 is further characterized in that the first and second modes correspond to substantially the same target temperature for the heat fixing rotation member and correspond to either difference target temperatures for the pressure rotation member or a different power supplied to the second heater. Claim 2 is further characterized in that the first and second modes correspond to substantially the same target temperature for the heat fixing rotation member and to different target temperatures for the pressure rotation member. Lastly, claim 4 is further characterized in that the first and second modes correspond to substantially the same target temperature for the heat fixing rotation member and to different powers supplied to the second heater.

Accordingly, as now set forth in each of independent claims 1, 2 and 4, Applicants' invention is characterized in that (i) the apparatus has a plurality of selectable modes including a first and a second mode for at least a predetermined period during a non-printing time, and (ii) the first and second modes correspond to substantially the same target temperature for the heat-fixing rotation member and correspond to either different target temperatures for the pressure rotation member or different power supplied to the second heater.

Stelter et al. is directed to an apparatus which fixes images using a fuser having at least one heated roller and uses a temperature control means for that roller which has both a run set point and a standby set point. The apparatus monitors the formation of images and if image formation is interrupted, set point for the fuser is adjusted toward the standby set point. However, Stelter et al. fails to teach or suggest an apparatus which has a plurality of selectable modes including a first and a second mode for at least a predetermined period during a non-printing time. Moreover, Stelter et al. fails to teach or suggest that the first and second modes correspond substantially to the same target temperature for the heat-fixing rotation member or corresponds to either different target temperatures for the pressure rotation or different power supplied to the second heater. Thus Stelter et al. clearly does not teach or suggest the invention as now recited in independent claims 1, 2 and 4.

Applicants have also reviewed the secondary reference which was applied in combination with Stelter et al. to find claim 8 unpatentable. However, that reference was merely cited for its disclosure of a sleep mode and is not believed to meet any of the above-discussed shortcomings of Stelter et al.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that each of independent claims 1, 2 and 4 is patentable over the applied art of record. The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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